

## **FISCAL NOTE**

### **SB 2160 - HB 2464**

March 2, 2000

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Establishes the Tennessee Sustainable Management Act of 2000 as follows:

- Directs the governor to convene representatives from the Department of Tourism, the Division of Forestry, and the Department of Environment and Conservation to formulate a plan on the use of state-owned forest land to include: type and kind of recreational activities each state forest could support; unique ecological, geological, historical or archeological sites in each state forest; fragile or other special areas which would need protection; a proposed budget for the promotion of recreational and ecological values including a funding structure; and measures to ensure minimum impact to air, soil, and water quality and wildlife from increased visitation.
- Requires the plan to be presented to the State Environment, Conservation and Tourism Committee and the House Conservation and Environment Committee by February 1, 2001.
- Directs the Division of Forestry to conduct (1) an inventory of old growth and potential old growth areas in the state forests; and (2) hold public hearings and present the report to the public. The inventory shall be accomplished through mapping and on-the-ground identification procedures.
- Requires the Division of Forestry to advertise and give notice in local newspapers and in a newspaper in each of the major metropolitan areas within the state of a public hearing to be held in a community near the state forest inventoried. A copy of the report shall be sent to certain committees.
- Requires the Division of Forestry to create buffer zones after the public hearing period. These buffer zones would extend at least 100 feet from old growth and potential old growth reserves to protect those reserves. Prohibits the harvesting and sale of any timber from state owned forestland until the forestry inventory is completed and a final report has been approved by the general assembly.
- Prohibits the Division of Forestry from harvesting more than one-sixth of one percent (0.1667%) of the total acreage of each state forest each year. There shall be no conversion of hardwood forest to pine. Requires the Division of Forestry to develop a single-tree selection management plan and demonstration program on appropriate sections of the State Forest System. Demonstrations shall be planned and conducted in collaboration with scientists from Tennessee universities with programs in forestry and ecology. The comprehensive findings of each demonstration shall be published and made available to the public.

#### **ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

**Decrease State Revenues - Exceeds \$500,000**

**Increase State Expenditures - Exceeds \$200,000 One-Time**

Estimate assumes:

- A revenue loss from limiting harvest of timber to not more than 0.1667% of the total average of each state forest each year.
- Cost to inventory each forest and conduct ecological and archaeological surveys is estimated to exceed \$200,000.

#### **CERTIFICATION:**

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James A. Davenport". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" being the most prominent.

James A. Davenport, Executive Director